



Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program Guidelines

2020-2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM)

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CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

The governments of Canada and Nova Scotia are committed to ensuring farmers and processors have the tools they need to innovate, grow and prosper. The *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* agreement is part of a commitment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to promote productivity and profitability for the sector. The programs are designed to help the industry position itself to respond to future opportunities and to realize its full potential as a significant contributor to the economy. Programs are also tailored with the flexibility to meet diverse regional requirements.

The partnership is a five-year, \$3-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments that aims to strengthen the agriculture and agri-food sector and ensure continued innovation, growth and prosperity. The partnership includes \$1 billion for federal activities and programs, and \$2 billion in cost-shared programs delivered by provinces and territories on a 60-40 basis. In Nova Scotia, \$37 million will be invested through provincially delivered programs focusing on Markets and Trade; Science, Research and Innovation; Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Risk Management; Value Added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing; and Public Trust.

In addition to cost-shared strategic initiatives, the partnership includes several business risk-management programs to help farmers manage risks that threaten the viability of their farms.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program supports the adoption of efficient harvester technology to increase blueberry producers' harvest and field handling efficiency resulting in an increase in crop yield.

ELIGIBILITY

Farm:

- applicant is at least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year;
- currently and properly registered in the correct income category under the *Farm Registration Act*; and
- generates an annual eligible gross commodity income of \$30,000. The eligible commodity income will be based on the Statement of Farming Activities (T2042, T1273 or Schedule 125 - Farm Revenue: detailing sales by commodity revenue code).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Applicants are eligible for **50%** funding assistance on total eligible project costs. Maximum funding amounts are determined by the number of heads on a harvester, illustrated in the table below. Each head has a maximum funding amount of **\$20,000**.

Project	# of Heads	Max Funding for all Eligible Expenses
Harvester 1	2 x \$20,000	\$40,000
Harvester 2	1 x \$20,000	\$20,000

Note: Applicants previously supported through the Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program are not eligible to apply in the 2020-2021 program year.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Harvester head upgrade to 26" diameter;
- Harvester head upgrade to 42" diameter;
- Harvester head upgrade to 48" diameter;
- Harvester efficiency kit for 22" diameter heads (one per head);
- Picker bar upgrade to 65 tooth bars for 22" diameter heads;
- Bin loader addition for small box harvesters (one per harvester);
- Bin loader upgrade (one per harvester); and
- Arm's length labour to install the above listed eligible expenses.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

These include but are not limited to:

- HST;
- Travel / shipping; and
- Harvesters previously supported through the Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for the Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program, complete and submit the Application including the consultant quote(s). Late applications will not be accepted. Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the activity period stated in the below table, however, expenses incurred prior to the date of project approval are at the applicant's risk.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
May 1, 2020 - October 31, 2020	April 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021	February 1, 2021

Note: Clients new to PBRM programs since 2018 must complete the Program Funding Registration form. Returning clients, must update the form as needed with any changes to business information including contact information, structure, commodities, environmental farm plan and Premise ID.

APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Applications will be reviewed by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA).
2. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement (LOA)** which identifies the eligible project activities, assistance offered, and the terms and conditions under which assistance is approved.
3. Review, sign and return the LOA to PBRM within **30 days** of the date of the letter or your funding will be forfeited.

CLAIMING PROCESS

1. Claim deadline is noted in table above (page 4), in Application Process.
2. Complete and sign the **Program Claim Form** that you received with your LOA.
3. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs incurred and paid for by the applicant.
4. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – debit slips, cancelled cheques, or credit card statements. (receipted invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted)
5. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to PBRM by the claim deadline.

Note 1: No payment will be made for claims under \$20.00.

Note 2: Invoices from supplier(s) must indicate the serial number of the unit removed and the serial number of the replacement unit.

ARM'S LENGTH TRANSACTIONS

Financial assistance will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that involve a supplier/service provider with an arm's-length relationship to the applicant for approved projects. For the purposes of Programs, arm's length is defined as individuals who are NOT connected by blood relationship, marriage, common-law partnership, or adoption.

AUTHORITY

The Department shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information, or if the Department believes that an application does not conform to the spirit of the program.

EVALUATION AND AUDIT

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by officials of (NSDA), Government of Canada or other parties chosen by the NSDA for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining assistance. This review and evaluation process may be conducted prior to project commencement, during work or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey statement related to their final claim.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the Program. This specific information is deemed to be public information, to be actively disseminated by NSDA. NSDA may provide any information from an applicant to another public body or a law-enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation, undertaken with a view to a law-enforcement proceeding or from which a law-enforcement proceeding is likely to result. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit all documents related to the Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program to PBRM at the address, email or fax number below. For more information about the Program, please contact PBRM or your regional office.

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